

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00 DS-00  
VCI-00 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 MOFM-00  
MOF-00 VCIE-00 NSAE-00 OIC-00 PM-00 GIWI-00 FMPC-00  
SP-00 IRM-00 SSO-00 SS-00 CRYE-00 SCRS-00 PMB-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5418  
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 000576

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/02/2019  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM IV](#)  
SUBJECT: PURPORTED PROVISIONAL ELECTORAL LIST DELIVERED TO  
PRIME MINISTER

REF: A. ABIDJAN 503  
[B](#). ABIDJAN 462  
[C](#). ABIDJAN 406

Classified By: Tanya Salseth, Political Officer, for reasons 1.4  
(b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) On the evening of October 1, SAGEM and the National Institute for Statistics (INS) presented Prime Minister Soro with an electronic copy (on USB thumb drives) of what they claimed was a provisional electoral list. Because President Laurent Gbagbo was traveling in the west on October 1, an official ceremony to present him with the list was initially scheduled for October 5, then later postponed. Publicly-released statistics on this provisional list have raised the skepticism of international electoral experts, however, who question whether the data presented to the PM can truly be called a provisional electoral list.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Data released to the public on what the thumb drives contain was printed in local newspapers on October 2. The major state-owned daily, Fraternite Matin, reported that the provisional list submitted to the PM contains the names of 6,384,816 people whose registration was "validated" by SAGEM and INS. Of these 6,384,816 people:

- 2,678,069 people were on the 2000 voter's list and should be directly eligible for an ID card
- 904,858 people are new voters
- 49,408 people are non-ECOWAS foreign nationals
- 2,752,181 people were not found in any of the historical files
- 330,000 people were removed from the list (duplicate registrations, for example)

Poloff double-checked these numbers on October 2 with the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire's (UNOCI) Electoral Assistance Division, the only international organization present when the thumb drives were presented to the PM. UNOCI reps confirmed these numbers, which they said had been provided by the Facilitator's Office.

[1](#)3. (C) However, UNOCI could not independently verify what information the thumb drives contain. One of UNOCI's senior electoral assistance division reps, Margaux van de Fliert, told Poloff that "no one in the international community knows what is in the electronic copy of the list." UNDP Advisor Steve Wagenseil agreed, stating that it was doubtful that names included in the electronic provisional list have been properly validated. He cited persistent rumors that INS had not completed its part of the validation process, which includes running petitioner data (including photos) through facial-recognition software.

[1](#)4. (C) Despite skepticism of the provisional list's validity by international experts, the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) is treating the electronic copy as if it is

a viable provisional list and has stated that it intends to distribute digital copies to all of the political parties. The CEI will then post the list on the internet for public consultation at the same time hard copies are being posted in the country's 11,001 polling stations.

STANLEY